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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/579,997 | 05/26/2000 | Stephen D. Smith | REDA:0093/ID99-10 | 9764 |

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03/03/2004

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EXAMINER

LAM, THANH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2834

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 09/579,997 | Applicant(s) SMITH ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Thanh Lam | Art Unit 2834 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 21-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 21-23 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 6-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 3-5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2,6-15,21 and 23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ekstromer (US 1,960,484).

Regarding claim 1, Ekstromer discloses an electric motor, comprising: a plurality of stator sections (17), each stator section comprising an outer housing (22), wherein the plurality of stator sections are mechanically and electrically (see fig. 4) coupleable to form a stator of a desired length; and a single rotor shaft (28) disposed through the plurality of stator sections.

Regarding claims 2, Ekstromer discloses the plurality of stator sections includes a first stator section, having a plurality of conductors extending longitudinally therethrough; a second stator section, electrically coupleable to an electrical power source and to the first stator section; and a third stator section, electrically coupleable to the first stator section; wherein electricity flowing through the plurality of stator sections produces a magnetic field that imparts rotative motion to the rotor.

Regarding claim 6, Ekstromer discloses comprising a plurality of seals disposed between stator sections.

Regarding claim 7, Ekstromer discloses at least one stator section includes a plurality of conductors terminating at a plurality of corresponding protrusions (see fig. 4).

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Regarding claim 8, Ekstromer discloses at least one stator section includes a plurality of conductive elements configured for engagement with the plurality of corresponding protrusions when the stator sections are mechanically coupled (fig. 4).

Regarding claim 9, Ekstromer discloses each conductive element includes a hollow receptacle sized to received a corresponding protrusion (see fig. 4).

Regarding claim 10, Ekstromer discloses at least one stator section is coupled to an adjacent stator section by a separate coupling device.

Regarding claim 11, Ekstromer discloses the coupling device is configured to mechanically and electrically couple the at least one stator section to the adjacent stator section.

Regarding claim 12, Ekstromer discloses each coupling device includes a plurality of receptacles to receive a corresponding plurality of protruding conductors.

Regarding claim 13, Ekstromer discloses each stator section outer housing includes at least one of a threaded collar and a threaded end.

Regarding claim 14, Ekstromer discloses a submersible pumping system, comprising: a submersible electric motor, comprising: a plurality of modular motor sections, each motor section comprising a stator section and a housing section defining an outer surface of the submersible pumping system, wherein the modular motor sections are mechanically and electrically coupleable to form a motor of a desired length; a rotor disposed within the plurality of modular motor sections; and a submersible pump drivingly coupled to the rotor of the submersible electric motor.

Regarding claim 15, Ekstromer discloses the plurality of modular motor sections includes: a first stator section, having a plurality of conductors extending longitudinally

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therethrough; a second stator section, electrically coupleable to a source of electrical power and to the first stator section; and a third stator section, electrically coupleable to the first stator section; wherein electricity flowing through the plurality of stator sections produces a magnetic field that imparts rotative motion to the rotor.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 3-4, and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 21-23 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh Lam whose telephone number is (571) 272-2026. The examiner can normally be reached on m-f 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on (571) 272-2034. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thanh Lam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Thanh Lam

Primary Examiner

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